



1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Arnold "Arnie" Morton of Chicago passed away on
3 May 28, 2005; and

4 WHEREAS, Mr. Morton is best known for the Chicago
5 restaurant "Arnie's", the club "Zorine's", and "Morton's"
6 steakhouses; he also helped start the first Playboy Club and
7 the Taste of Chicago food festival; and

8 WHEREAS, He was born in Chicago in 1922 and grew up in Hyde
9 Park, where his father owned two restaurants in which he bused
10 tables and worked in the kitchen from the age of 15; he
11 graduated from Hyde Park High School and enlisted in the Army
12 during World War II; he saw eight months of action with the
13 infantry, arriving in Normandy, France, just after D-Day; after
14 the war, he attended the University of Alabama, where he played
15 football for two years; and

16 WHEREAS, Mr. Morton's first restaurant, the Walton Walk,
17 between Rush Street and Michigan Avenue, opened in the 1950s
18 and paved the way for a partnership with Hugh Hefner and Victor
19 Lowmes, and for the Playboy Club they opened in 1960; Mr.
20 Morton left Playboy in the early 1970s and ran several
21 nightspots, then opened Morton's steakhouse in the Gold Coast
22 neighborhood of Chicago in 1978; he sold his steakhouses in
23 1987; there are now 65 locations in the United States, Hong
24 Kong, Singapore, and Canada; and

25 WHEREAS, He married his wife, Zorine, in 1961; they had
26 four daughters and three sons; and

27 WHEREAS, Even though he had a busy life, his wife and
28 children came first; he was home for dinner five nights a week
29 and never missed a game when his kids played sports; he touched
30 everyone he came in contact with; he was a most humble,

1 understated, genuine, loyal, and creative person; he was also a
2 non-stop booster for Chicago and a big Bears fan; and

3 WHEREAS, Arnold "Arnie" Morton was the beloved husband of
4 Zorine; the loving father of Peter Morton, Pam Morton, Amy
5 (Neal) Morton-Levin, Michael (Jenna) Morton, Debra (Ben)
6 Morton-Berger, Stephanie Morton, and David (Jodi) Morton; an
7 adored grandfather; and the dear brother of Robert (Rita)
8 Morton; therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
10 NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
11 we offer our deepest condolences and most heartfelt sympathy to
12 Arnold "Arnie" Morton's family and many friends, and join them
13 in sorrow at this time of loss; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
15 presented to his family, that his memory may be so honored and
16 ever cherished.